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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 18:** Independent Study Hunter Education Certification Class. Register online or at Salmon Office
- **January 20:** State offices closed for Martin Luther King Holiday.
- **January 25:** 23rd Annual Kids Ice Fishing Derby at Hyde Pond.
- **Begins February 4th:** Instructor-led Hunter Education class. Register online or at Salmon Office. Call 756-2271 for dates and more details.



Idaho's Wildlife Belongs To You

SALMON REGION IDFG SPORTSMAN NEWSLETTER

Great Outdoors



WINTER 2014

Kids Ice Fishing Derby

For the last 23 years in January parents have bundled up their kids with winter clothing, gloves, and hats to stand on a frozen pond for a fun-filled morning of ice fishing. The 23rd Annual Salmon, Idaho Kids' Ice Fishing Derby, held each winter at Hyde Creek Pond, is scheduled for Saturday, January 25th. The derby, FREE to youth 16 years of age and younger, will run from 8 am until noon. The Hyde Creek Pond is located just past the Salmon Airport on the road to Sunset Heights. Prior to the event, Idaho Department of Fish and Game stocks approximately 300 rainbow trout from the Mackay Fish Hatchery into the pond.

Every year from beginning until the end of the derby you can hear the sounds of, "I got a bite", "I caught another fish", "I caught a tagged fish",

and "that fish looks big you better go weigh it and see if it is the big fish in your age category".



2013 Kids Ice Derby angler waiting for a bite. Ice holes are drilled and ready for fishing on derby day.

It is not uncommon for an estimated 300 plus rainbow trout to be caught

during the four-hour ice fishing derby. In most years, there are around 60 kids fishing in the derby ranging in age from 1 to 15 years old. Often more than 30 adults, including moms, dads, grandparents, neighbors and friends, will accompany the young anglers who came from places throughout Lemhi County and as far away as Ellis, Challis, and Boise. As the morning wears on, kids will take a short break from

fishing and gather at the hot chocolate station and warm their hands by the fire.

At the end of the derby prizes, totaling almost \$2,000 in value, are awarded to all youth present. Prizes are usually donated by the Salmon-Challis National Forest, Idaho Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Trout Unlimited. These donated prizes ensure no child goes home empty handed and everyone is a winner. In addition to the prizes awarded at the end of the derby, there are 15 tagged fish swimming around in the pond waiting for lucky anglers to catch them. Those fish are sponsored by generous local merchants, businesses and private citizens, and worth \$25, if caught by kids during the derby. There is a big fish contest for four different age groups. All four big fish winners are awarded a fishing rod and reel combo with a tackle box donated by the Salmon Region Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

2014 Salmon Christmas Bird Count



Bohemian waxwings perched on a weeping birch tree.

The Salmon Region 41st Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 14th. As observers in the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count, 16 volunteers counted 54 bird species and totaled 4,107 birds all together in a 15-mile radius which centered at the Salmon River downtown bridge.

Highlights of the day were a Virginia rail, a blue

jay, a tundra swan, a northern goshawk, Lewis's woodpeckers and a large flock of Barrow's goldeneye. Several abundant native birds were spotted as well. The early cold weather chased some birds out of the valley, but results remained close to the 10-year average.

Challis held their 3rd annual bird count the following week tallying 55 species and a total count of

2,563 birds.



The National Audubon Society has been conducting these counts for 114 years.



Barrow's Goldeneyes
Marsha White photo

Fishing Williams Lake



"...checked two fishermen to find their catch was approximately 30 rainbow with 12 being kept..."

Sr. Conservation Officer Dane Cook patrolled Williams Lake on Saturday, December 14th. He checked two fishermen to find their catch was approximately 30 rainbow with 12 being kept, and 12 bull trout which were released. The men had been fishing for 4.5 hours. The fish caught there were in excel-

lent condition.

The lake had 7 inches of thick, good, clear ice. Dane remarked that this is the earliest Williams Lake has ever froze up that he is aware of. There should be 4-6 weeks of good ice fishing. The rainbows were measuring 14-16". They are finding the fish from 4-

10 feet down. Due to low oxygen, Williams Lake fish are mostly caught above 15 feet.



Upland Game Rules

Dusky Grouse sprinting through the pines. Chris Gaughan photo



The Idaho Fish and Game Commission will meet in Boise in mid-January to determine upland game bird rules. There will be no open house to discuss the upland game rules in the Salmon Region since we are not proposing changes.



Spruce grouse

